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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, when the scheme recommended by the Water-Supply and Drainage Committee will be implemented? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That will take some time, Sir."

The State Transport Scheme.

* 6 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Government buses now running under the State Transport Scheme;

(b) the amount of annual savings to the State since the inception of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to further nationalization of Bus Transport System by extension of the same to adjoining district centres radiating from the Madras City?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) There are in all 339 buses in the State Transport Department, of which 285 buses are normally scheduled to ply on the road in each shift.

" (b) A statement [a] furnishing the information required is laid on the table of the House.

" (c) The Government have deferred for the present the question of extension of the scheme of nationalization of Motor Transport outside the Madras City."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is a proposal to increase the number of buses in the City? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" There is a proposal to replace some of the buses which have become old and rickety. But at present there is no proposal to increase the number of buses."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to relieve the congestion of traffic during peak hours? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I would like to inform the hon. Member that during peak hours we run shuttle services which, to a great extent, have relieved the congestion in passenger traffic. If it is possible to put more buses on the road we may do it; but that means more congestion in bottlenecks near Central Station and Mount Road."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" With reference to the statement placed on the Table of the House, may

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 75 *infra*.

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I know Sir, whether in assessing the savings, the Hon. Minister has taken note of the loss of income from motor vehicles taxation which the Government would have got if private buses had been licensed?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"Notice."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—"It is found in the statement placed on the Table of the House, that the Government have made a profit of about six lakhs of rupees from the Government Bus Service in 1947–48, about eight and a half lakhs of rupees in 1948–49, Rs. 1,47,602 in 1949–50, and Rs. 4,21,937 in 1950–51. May I know the reason for the fall in the annual savings to the State during 1949–50 and 1950–51?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"I would like to inform the hon. Member that buses run efficiently for the first two years and in the third year they have to undergo a lot of repairs. The cost of spare parts, petrol and tyres had gone up tremendously during these years. That explains why there have been less savings. Of course in 1950–51, there have been more savings. I must say, however, that in the current year the position is not as bright as it was in 1950–51."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—"May I know, Sir, whether the fall in savings in 1949–50 was due to the less number of passengers that travelled in the buses or to the high cost of the repairs that had to be carried out to the buses?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"Sir, roughly about 33,000 passengers travel every day. During special seasons about 50,000 passengers travel. There is no fall in the number of passengers. Apart from seasonal variations or extra circumstances, the loss in annual savings is due to increased expenditure and not due to the fall in the number of passengers carried."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"In view of the fact that the Government are now making a handsome profit in this transport business, may I know, Sir, whether they have any proposal to reduce the bus fares in order to help the poor people who are mostly walking from their homes to their places of work?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"I think the hon. Member will grant that there can be two views on the question of profit. We are not making a handsome profit. If we do make a handsome profit, we will consider the hon. Member's suggestion."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"May I know, Sir, whether the figures furnished in the statement placed on the Table of the House do not represent profits made by the Government?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"The savings shown under the Automobile Workshop and the Coach Building Factory have no relation whatsoever to the passenger traffic. We have only to take into account the savings under the

Bus Service in considering the question of reduction or increase in passenger fares. I think I should require notice, if I have to give more details as to whether this amount of profit is sufficient to warrant a reduction of passenger fares and if so, to what extent they can be reduced. The hon. Member may put a separate question on this subject."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have got any proposal to meet the surcharge on bus fares under the Bill pending before the legislature, out of the Government's savings instead of collecting it from the passengers themselves?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"I am very glad to inform the hon. Member that there is a proposal before the Government to exempt the Madras City Bus Transport from the operation of this new Bill, under which we propose to levy a surcharge on fares collected by operators of buses or stage carriages."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—"We thank you, Sir, very much for it."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—"Have the figures shown in the statement been obtained after a thorough audit of the accounts of the Transport Department?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"There is an auditor for the department."

Elections to local bodies.

* 7. *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the general elections of members of the Municipal Councils and Panchayat Boards (Ex-Union Boards) and Village Panchayats were last held;

(*b*) whether the term of these bodies is being extended from time to time;

(*c*) what action has been taken to conduct immediately elections to all District Boards, Municipalities and Panchayat Boards on the basis of adult suffrage; and

(*d*) when the elections are programmed to be held to the several local bodies stated above?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDY :—"(*a*) For Municipal Councils in 1947; for Panchayats in 1939.

"(*b*) Yes.

"(*c*) & (*d*) Orders have already been issued to the Election Authority, namely, the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards for the conduct of elections to all municipal councils during this year on the basis of adult suffrage so